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Pourakarmikas working in Halasuru have to walk around 2 km to access Suvidha Cabin, leaving them with no place to eat, change or attend to nature's call

CABIN FEVER

BBMP owns vacant space nearby, but won't build restroom there

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The plight of around 30 pourakarmikas working in Halasuru is dire as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) seems to be in no hurry to ensure that a basic facility – construction of Suvidha Cabins - is taken up with the urgency it deserves.

Suvidha Cabins are supposed to be equipped with basic amenities such as toilets, changing rooms, feeding rooms and medical aid. The Solid Waste Management (SWM) Department had announced the construction of 221 Suvidha Cabins at an estimated cost of Rs 18.31 crore in January 2022. It is estimated that each of the Suvidha Cabins costs Rs 5.50 lakh. The plan was to complete the construction of Suvidha Cabins in six months but the target was not achieved despite a delay of one year.

"We have struggled all these years for a suitable place to have lunch. All these years, we are depending on public toilets to attend nature's call. We were very happy when the authorities announced the plan to construct Suvidha Cabins but they failed to provide such a facility even after a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

Pourakarmikas having lunch on the road in Halasuru

"All these years, pourakarmikas used to have lunch at a building owned by the BBMP. It was very convenient for them. After demolition of that building, they have no space

–BR Chandran, a social activist

Pricey parking

Sharp rise in Brigade Road deals blow to shoppers and bizmen

| Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A steep hike in parking fee on Brigade Road, has left shoppers and shopkeepers disgruntled.

Parking fee on Brigade Road has now been drastically increased from Rs 10 per hour to Rs 30 per hour. The parking space on the left side of Brigade Road can accommodate 88 four-wheelers, which is a great help to the many customers who visit the locality to shop. The price hike is being seen as a blow to business.

Suhail Yusuf, secretary of Brigade's Shops and Establishments Association (BSEA) said that prior to this, an automated parking system was in place and was run by the association. "The automated system was working smoothly for 15 years as it was a no profit or loss system. There was no individual collecting money from customers," he said. He added that the association would pay Rs 2,25,000 to the municipal body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on a monthly basis by collecting a fee of Rs 10 per hour. Yusuf further alleged that without consultation with the association or calling of tenders, the BBMP gave away the parking space to a contractor. "They had also insisted that we pay the monthly amount during the lockdown period when there were no vehicles on the road. The roads had also been dug up due to several ongoing civil works," he said.

Yusuf said that the system which was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Exhibition spot

The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition is all set to feature some of the collections of cotton and silk handlooms from Karnataka tie and dye dress material, Odisha sarees, and West Bengal cotton sarees. The variety of handlooms includes jewellery (silver, kundan, and meenakari), textiles, handmade paper, precious and semi-precious stones (gemstones), paintings, and more.
Where: White House, No. 4B, 14th Main Road, next to BDA Complex, Sector 6, HSR Layout
When: until July 9

02 Musical evening

Here's a chance for you to attend Groovy Techno, being presented at one of the most happening places in the city. Chaz, known for creating evocative techno sounds; Vishal, for his symbiosis with the deeper realms of techno; and Clover, for playing progressive house and techno, will be performing at the event.
Where: Indiranagar Social, Plot 37, 80 Feet Road, HAL 3rd Stage, New Tippasandra
When: Friday, July 7; 8 pm onwards

03 Theatre time

Grab the chance to watch a play that explores the relationship between a guru and his student. Written by Priyam Jani and directed by Aashish Rana, Digdarshak is about a theatre director and a student who is now a celebrity. Their differences help them understand what caused a drift during their earlier days.
Where: Vyoma ArtSpace and Studio Theatre
When: Saturday, July 15

What's up with covid?

City reports 97.49% decrease in covid in June as compared to April; docs see rise in flu cases among kids, advise to prioritise cleanliness

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

June 2023 recorded the highest number of days with zero covid cases reported in Bengaluru on Friday, with zero cases in the remaining 30 districts of Karnataka

As June comes to a close, there is uplifting news: Covid cases in Bengaluru have witnessed a staggering 97.49 per cent decrease in June compared to April, which marked the peak of covid cases in 2023. Additionally, there was an 88.34 per cent decrease in covid cases in June compared to May. Interestingly, June 2023 recorded the highest number of days with zero covid cases reported in the city since the pandemic struck Bengaluru in 2020. Remarkably, only six cases were reported in Bengaluru on Friday, with zero cases in the remaining 30 districts of Karnataka.

A month-wise comparison of covid cases in 2023 reveals the following trends: In January, there were 694 reported cases with no deaths. February witnessed a slightly lower number of cases, with 636 reported and no deaths. The numbers began to rise in March, reaching 2,122 cases, accompanied by five deaths. April experienced a significant increase in cases, with 5,333 reported and one death. May saw a slight decrease compared to April, with 1,141 cases and three deaths, while June reported just 134 cases. These figures provide insights into the progression of covid cases in the first half of 2023.

Since last year, experts have shifted their focus from infection numbers to hospitalisations as a key indicator of covid severity. For most of the second half of June, hospitalisations remained at zero, indicating the lowest covid activity in the city since the outbreak in March 2020. Out of the 198 reported cases, 192 reported zero cases in a week. Only a few wards, such as Shettyhalli, HBR Layout, Dayananda Nagar, Rajajinagar, and Banashankari temple ward, reported an average of one case per day. Interestingly, Bellandur, which used to have the highest number of covid cases, has recently reported zero cases. Although the number of covid cases has decreased, doctors are observing a rise in flu cases, especially among children.

Dr Leenatha Reddy N (Consultant - Neonatology and Paediatrics, Kinder Hospital) mentioned that children under the age of five are particularly susceptible to the flu due to their developing immune systems. Moreover, with many kids returning to school after a break, their exposure to different strains of influenza may increase, leading to flu cases.

> **"As schools have reopened and the season is changing, cases of dengue fever is expected to increase**
> – Dr Santhosh Kumar, Motherhood Hospital

Dr Santhosh Kumar (Consultant Paediatrician and Neonatologist, Motherhood Hospitals, Banashankari) explained that with the pre-monsoon showers and the upcoming monsoon season, there are several common infections that tend to affect children.

"Increased moisture and humidity create favourable conditions for the growth and spread of various microorganisms, resulting in upper respiratory infections. Symptoms may include a scratchy or sore throat, sneezing, a stuffy nose, and cough. The number of cases of viral fever, cold, cough, and wheeze-related viral infections is on the rise," he said.

As schools have reopened and the season is changing, cases of dengue fever and hand-foot-mouth disease are expected to increase. Parents and caregivers are advised to prioritise cleanliness, provide balanced and nutritious food, eliminate stagnant water from their surroundings, and ensure children are appropriately dressed for the weather to prevent these infections. It is crucial to seek medical assistance if a child displays symptoms of any infection, he added.

Basic amenities not within civic workers' reach

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year of announcement," said Penchallamma (name changed), a pourakarmika.

The pourakarmikas, most of whom are women, said that the authorities asked them to use the Suvidha Cabin constructed opposite the defunct Ajanta Theater situated 2 km away from Halasuru. "They asked pourakarmikas to use the Suvidha Cabins installed near Ajanta Theater. It is very difficult for women pourakarmikas to walk up to 2 km to be able to use the Suvidha Cabin. We have appealed to the BBMP authorities to construct a Suvidha Cabin near Gupta Layout in Halasuru ward," said Pothaiah, a pourakarmika.

In the absence of Suvidha Cabin in Halasuru, women pourakarmikas are compelled to have lunch on the road or in front of provision stores on Satyanarayana Swamy Temple Road in Halasuru. They have to depend on generous residents of the area for drinking water. They do not have the changing room to change their clothes (uniform) while going home.

"All these years, pourakarmikas used to have lunch at a building owned by the BBMP. It was very convenient for them to keep the material (brooms and other things) at the building. After demolition of that building, these hapless pourakarmikas have no suitable place to have lunch or change their uniform. I have written a letter to the authorities and also suggested that they utilise the vacant space for the construction of Suvidha Cabin. The vacant space belongs to the BBMP. I am at a loss to understand why the BBMP hesitates to use the land readily available for the construction of one or two Suvidha Cabins," said BR Chandran, a social activist.

BBMP assistant executive engineer (SWM) Abhilash has said there are two Suvidha Cabins – one opposite Ajanta Theater and another one near Tiruvalluvar statue – for pourakarmikas working in Halasuru ward. "I am aware that these two Suvidha Cabins are situated away from Halasuru and it will be difficult for the pourakarmikas to walk all the way to use them. I will make arrangements to construct a Suvidha Cabin in Halasuru after completing the tendering process," said the assistant executive engineer.

Hop on, this bus goes to airport T2

| Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has expanded its airport bus services from Terminal 1 to Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport. With approximately 11,000 people already utilising the buses from Terminal 1, this move aims to meet the increasing demand for reliable transportation options from the airport.

The BMTC's official Twitter handle announced the launch of the service. "Hello Commuters, Yes, you heard it Right! Now we are operating the buses from Terminal 2 also. For a safe, comfortable and affordable journey opt BMTC services. Bringing our service to your doorsteps," read the tweet.

"We are currently operating 50-60 trips per day on a trial-demand basis at T2. As passengers are increasing in T2, we are planning to increase more trips via T2. We have deployed our staff to monitor the demand at each terminal. Buses running from T1 will be extended to T2. The buses will run trips to drop passengers from both terminals from the airport to the city," said a senior BMTC official.

If buses are more frequent, ridership will increase, experts say

BMTC officials also mentioned that currently, they are running 125 schedules, and 500 trips are operating to the airport. However, now officials are introducing exclusive trips for T2. All the buses running from Terminal 1 will be extended to Terminal 2 as well. The services were started at the launch of Terminal 2; however, the ridership levels are picking up now. Daily, around 250-300 people travel through the airport Vayu Vajra buses.

Bus activists say that efforts must be made to increase the ridership levels of trips from the city to the airport. "With so much fanfare Terminal 2 was inaugurated, and in the same manner, bus services are also going to be a great relief to flyers. More riders tend to take Vayu Vajra bus services from the airport rather than to the airport.

People tend to believe that bus services are unreliable and hence cannot be availed during rush hours. But I feel they are quite frequent, and with the train services to the airport cancelled, more people should be encouraged to take the bus.

Vayu Vajra is also useful for making inter-city travel at a reasonable cost. Additionally, the Vayu Vajra Pass must be promoted as it allows commuters to travel in all buses across the city," said Srinivas Alavilli, a bus activist.

BMTC runs 12 monthly passes and the Vayu Vajra Gold pass allows for unlimited travel in all services of BMTC (in all toll roads by paying toll fee except Navayuga Toll). Passengers can avail of bus passes at Rs 3,570.

CRIME FILES

Prostitution ring busted

Govindarajanagar police have arrested two people accused of illegal prostitution.

The team under guidance of senior officers raided a house belonging to a woman, who was engaged in prostitution and arrested her and another accused. Two mobile phones used by the accused, and Rs 2,500 in cash were seized. The police rescued four aggrieved women who had been forced into prostitution.

Shop robbery: 1 held

Two people are said to have come to a shop pretending to be businessmen, threatened the shop keeper at knifepoint, and run off with cash.

A case has been registered and an investigation has been started by City Market Police Station. The investigating officers and staff arrested one accused on the day the case was registered. A knife was seized from the accused and four two-wheelers were seized.

Diversion solution for Sarjapur Rd causes pang

| Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) have closed off a portion of the Sarjapur – Marathahalli Road in order to divert traffic. However, businesses in the vicinity of the road have suffered severe losses due to this. Business owners have urged the traffic police to allow at least their customers through the blocked road as there are no other alternative routes.

Vishwas from a car service centre situated on the road, explained that the traffic police began to block the road in January without providing prior notice. "When questioned, the police claimed that they are trying to divert traffic from entering the Sarjapur Road due to heavy congestion. When we try to reason with them to allow only the customers into the road, they say that the traffic cannot be segregated. When asked if other arrangements from our end could be made, such as stationing an employee to allow our customers without the traffic being disrupted, it was not agreed," he said.

Due to the blockage, customers of the service centre are forced to take a long detour around the Agara Lake and HSR layout. "On average, I receive 2-3 customers on a daily basis, it is a nightmare to take such detours every day. Without the cars coming in, my business has gone down by more than 50%," he said. The road also houses other businesses – two marble stores and an LPG bunk, which are facing similar losses.

Vishwas said the blockage has not been a real solution either, as it has merely shifted the point of congestion.

"The road leading to the HSR BDA complex is now witnessing traffic jams due to the blockage since it is receiving twice the amount of vehicles. There have been cases of ambulances being stuck in traffic," he said.

He suggested that the bus stop down the road, near the junction, can be shifted out to ease traffic congestion in the area. "The road narrows down and the junction clogs because the buses stop right there, leaving no room for another vehicle to pass. They need to move the bus stop further down the road and the traffic will free up on itself," he explained.

"Road leading to the HSR BDA complex is now witnessing traffic jams due to the blockage since it is receiving twice the amount of vehicles

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Rejuvenation with style? Checkmate!

Space under flyover in Chaturanga Mantapa gets a unique makeover

| Iffath Fathima
Iffath.Fathima@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Before this makeover, the space under the flyover in Chaturanga Mantapa was neglected for years and used for dumping garbage, open urination, illegal parking , and even storage of construction materials

The city has got its first chess-themed arena under the flyover in Chaturanga Mantapa. The unique recreational space, located beneath the Carmelaram Railway Bridge on Sarjapur Road, stands opposite RGA Tech Park and is a product of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) 'Adopt-a-Flyover' program.

The establishment of Chaturanga Mantapa is through a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative led by L&T Technology Services. The India Rising Trust, known for their commitment to enhancing visual cleanliness and reclaiming public spaces in Bengaluru, served as the execution partner for this project.

The project is a practical example of urban rejuvenation through transformational placemaking: a filthy, neglected public space under a flyover reclaimed to create a neat, safe, clean, and well-maintained free public space for all.

The space under the flyover had been neglected for years and was used for dumping garbage, open urination, illegal parking, and storage of construction materials. The space is right opposite the entrance of RGA Tech Park, where thousands of employees work in leading companies and need to use this space to access their vehicles or public transport. It was always a huge eyesore. This area is low-lying and used to get waterlogged frequently during heavy rains. As part of this project, various flood mitigation efforts were made in coordination with BBMP.

Aniruddha Abhyankar, Chief Design Officer, India Rising Trust, said, "There is no public park in the vicinity, and there are several residences nearby. The aim of the project was to provide a safe public space for local residents to use. The area abuts a railway line, and there is no proper wall barricading blocking access to the tracks. It was poorly lit at night. As a result, a lot of waste dumping and illegal activities took place here. As part of this project, a well-designed, colourful barricade was erected to prevent access to the tracks as well as improve the aesthetics of the area. The entire place is now well-lit and feels safe at night."

> **"There are several residences nearby. The aim of the project was to provide a safe public space for local residents to use**
> – Aniruddha Abhyankar, India Rising Trust

The project was designed as an RRR project - Reuse, Recycle, and Reduce. Old paver blocks removed from Ring Road, Koramangala were reused to create footpaths and walkways at the Chaturanga Mantapa. Chess pieces were made from recycled discarded plastic and metal household items. The space is designed to ensure minimal water usage to reduce waste during maintenance, yet provide a clean and green public space.

Talking about why the Chess theme was adapted, Abhyankar said, "Chess was invented around the 6th Century AD in the Gupta Era. It was then called 'Chaturanga,' referring to the four divisions of the royal army - infantry, elephantry, chariotry, and cavalry. The Persians adopted the game and named it 'Chatrang.' In Arabic, it was called Shatrang and finally became known as Chess today. As India becomes a major world power in chess, Chaturanga Mantapa celebrates the game's increasing popularity and aims to spread the game's reach and visibility. There are plans to conduct open-air rapid chess tournaments here in the near future."

The space is open to all 24x7. There is good seating, chess boards for those who want to play, greenery, and ample light and space.

Shifting problems won't fix it

Residents of Electronic City Phase 1 have voiced their concerns about several pressing issues in their area. They have complained about the frequent dumping of garbage on the roadside, inadequate street lighting, and the lack of a proper drainage system. The affected localities, including Gollahalli Main Road, Shikari Palya Main Road, Zee School Road, and Newton School Road, are particularly affected.

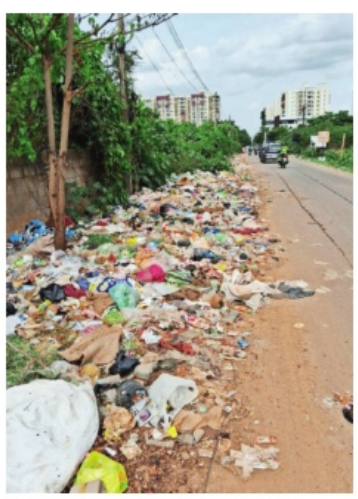
According to the residents, the Hulimangala Panchayat, responsible for the area, has been transferring garbage from one locality to another instead of disposing of it appropriately. Additionally, commercial building and shop owners nearby contribute to the problem by dumping garbage on the roadside. The absence of regular door-to-door garbage collection or designated collection points has resulted in the emergence of unsightly blackspots throughout the area.

Moreover, the residents are struggling with a lack of proper drainage facilities. The open drainage system leads to the rajakaluve, which ultimately flows into Shikaripalya Lake. Unfortunately, the lake has deteriorated significantly, emitting a foul smell and remaining poorly maintained. When the situation of garbage dumped on the roadsides worsens, residents raise tickets with the Panchayat, which occasionally clears up parts of the affected areas. However, there is a lack of proper waste segregation and processing.

Sajimon from the Hulimangala Apartment Residents Group said, "The Panchayat has been promising to identify vacant land for waste processing for the past four years but has failed to do so, exacerbating the garbage problem." In an attempt to bring attention to the issues, the residents sought approval from the Hebbagodi Police Station to conduct a protest. Unfortunately, permission for the protest was denied.

Recently, some children took matters into their own hands by holding placards and highlighting the problems of inadequate garbage management, lack of drainage, and dimly lit street lights in the area. The residents have emphasised the urgent need for improved lighting, as the inadequate street lights have led to numerous accidents during the night. Another resident said, "We are tired of the constant dumping of garbage on our roadsides. It not only makes our area look dirty and unhygienic, but also attracts pests and leads to a stench. The Panchayat's practice of transferring garbage from one locality to another is simply shifting the problem instead of solving it. We need a proper waste management system in place."

— BMB



There is a garbage dumping problem in Electronic City Phase 1 that needs to be dealt with

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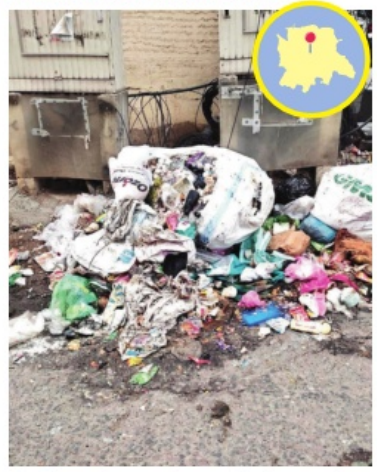
Trash talk

Sri Rama Mandira Road



Garbage is persistently dumped near the KEB Junction box located at the corner of 6th Cross, Sri Rama Mandira Road, Sampangi Rama Nagar.

Traffic trouble

Richmond Road

The traffic on Richmond Road has worsened since the schools reopened and authorities need to take action.

'No' parking

Haines Road

Despite the area being designated as a 'no parking' zone, two cars have been parked for a couple of days at Haines Road, Frazer Town.

Scan QR Code to get in touch with authorities

BBMP starts installing QR codes on street name boards to ensure transparency and to allow public direct access to officials

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has initiated a new project to install QR codes on street name boards to enhance transparency and provide easy access to the concerned authorities. Scanning these QR codes will enable citizens to obtain contact information for all relevant departments.

"It's a pilot project we are trying in the South Zone. The QR code will provide street-wise information. It will provide basic information about the sweeper, garbage contractor and other street-specific information. We just started the project two days back in Koramangala. We will be installed in all the 10000 streets in the South Zone. Residents can scan the code and directly contact the concerned person to raise complaints about civic issues," said a senior official from BBMP.

Citizens scanning the board will get information about different departments and contact numbers of concerned officials. The QR code

One such name board with a QR code installed

directs you to a website showcasing all the information. When the BM correspondent scanned the street name board at 2nd cross, BBMP office road, 5th Block, Koramangala, it displayed the name of MLA, road ID, Zone, Division and road name.

Further, it expands to covering contact details of the street sweeping department, garbage collection, BBMP engineering department(potholes, footpath resetting, broken slab replacement and drain desilting), Electrical department(street light management), forest department(tree cutting), BWSSB engineering(water supply sanitary related issues), BBMP control room, fire department, animal husbandry(dog catching and stray cow menace), and health department(mosquito spraying).

The code will also show the number of households in the street and the segregation percentage. It will show if there are commercial or bulk waste generators. The list will also inform citizens of the garbage collection timing, the name of the garbage contractor assigned to pick up waste, and the contact number of the contractor.

Padmashree Balaram, a resident of Koramangala, said, "This would be very helpful when I am out of Koramangala and have to raise some complaints about civic issues. Sometimes, there are dead animals on the road. It's a project that is already running in Indore, and it fixes accountability for the problems."

The project, estimated to be 15 Crores, will cover Govindraj Nagar, Vijay Nagar, Chickpet, Basavanagudi, Padmanabhanagar, BTM Layout, Jayanagar, and Bommanahalli under South Zone. Based on the success of the pilot, the project might be extended to the rest of the city.

Dark streets fuel crime concerns in Cooke Town

Lack of street lights raises safety concerns for citizens, admist increase in mugging incidents at unlit stretches

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash
@timegroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Cooke Town residents complained over the failure of authorities to switch on street lights in certain areas. This is leading to a rise in criminal activities and creates an unsafe environment. The absence or non-functioning of street lights has plunged the area into darkness, making it susceptible to criminal incidents such as muggings. Residents say that the street lights are not working on Wheeler Road, Hutching Road and various crosses of the Cooke Town area.

On July 2, 2nd cross, Hutchins Road, a person was attacked with a knife by two men who intended to rob him of his cash and mobile phone. The victim suffered hand injuries when he resisted the attackers. The incident took place near the entrance of NBCLC Road.

"There is a bridge connecting to the wheeler road, over the railway tracks, and the lights are never on. It is so dark at night that I wonder how people commute in the area. I don't feel safe walking on the roads, especially after so many mugging incidents are being recorded in the area. The lights are sporadically switched on, only once a month. Initially, I thought there were no bulbs, then I noticed that there are bulbs and every 20 meters there is a tube and the entire street can be well lit, but they never switch it on," said Avi, a resident.

Residents say that they have contacted the authorities regarding this issue, and the authorities have just guided them to the switch and demonstrated how to switch the street lights. But according to the residents, what is the point of having civic agencies when residents have to do all the tasks themselves?

Moreover, residents have been complaining about the malfunctioning street lights in a children's park since November. The absence of adequate lighting forces children to play in the dark, further compromising their safety.

A Wheeler Road resident says that there are two street lights across the road on the main road where the street lights have not been working for the past 4 months.

"Every other day as soon as it gets dark, we can spot people roaming around with bikes and waiting for someone to mug. After a while, you can identify these groups because it's always the same people. There are instances in the broad daylight of assault, so in the night when it's pitch dark, it's easier for the miscreants to commit a crime," said a woman.

> **"The lights are switched on sporadically, only once a month. Initially, I thought there were no bulbs, but that is not the case**
>
> –Avi, a resident of the area

A BBMP official told BM that they have solved the issue in some parts and on July 1, they asked the community group about the issue at different locations but nobody replied. He further added that the official will be visiting the spots on July 3 to access the issue.

Chhetri's B'luru contract is extended

In a moment of great joy for Bengaluru FC fans, Indian football star Sunil Chhetri has signed a contract extension with the club. The announcement was made immediately after Bengaluru FC's nail-biting victory against Lebanon in the semifinals, which saw them advance to the finals.

Chhetri, who has been an integral part of Bengaluru FC for the past 10 years, holds the position of captain and has amassed a remarkable 246 appearances for the club.

Following the victory, a banner bearing Chhetri's message, "I'm going nowhere," was displayed, reaffirming his commitment to the team.

"I am going nowhere", a banner from the skipper announced

Having scored 101 goals for the ISL club, Chhetri will look to add to his tally for the upcoming Indian Super League 2023-24. The tournament is slated to start at the end of September. He has played 1287 minutes in the ISL, and fans will be eager to watch more minutes of the skipper on the field with the contract extension.

Assembly: Cong braces for the storm

A stormy legislature session starting Monday awaits the ruling Congress in Karnataka, as the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party is all set to attack the ruling party over implementation of its poll guarantees one-and-a-half months after it came to power. As Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who holds finance portfolio, gets ready to present his budget on July 7, the BJP is prepared to attack the Congress for its "failure" to implement the five guarantees that were supposed to come into effect from the day the government came to power. PTI

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Any idea where the library is?

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah playfully questioned his ministerial colleague, BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan, inquiring if he had ever set foot in the Vidhana Soudha library. During a recent training session for newly elected legislators near Nelamangala, Siddaramaiah remarked, "Becoming a legislator doesn't automatically grant you encyclopaedic knowledge.

That's precisely why we have a well-established library in Vidhana Soudha. I wonder how many legislators have truly taken advantage of this resource. Zameer, have you ever stepped into a library?"

Litmus test of sobriety

As people lined up to present their appeals to Sringeri MLA TD Raje Gowda, a peculiar incident occurred when a school principal approached the legislator. However, Gowda quickly realised that the principal was inebriated. Expressing his disappointment, Gowda confronted the principal, questioning why he had arrived in a drunken state.

In response, the principal vehemently denied consuming alcohol. Unyielding, the MLA promptly summoned officials and ordered them to conduct a blood test to ascertain the truth behind the principal's inebriation.

No daytime intoxication

"Let the officials unwind at the bar after dusk," advised Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar during a recent development meeting in Ramanagara district. He directed the higher-ups to scrutinise the daily routines of each official, from their departures to how they address public concerns. Amidst a lighthearted comment about some individuals potentially frequenting bars, DKS firmly declared that he had no qualms about after-work drinking.

However, he sternly warned against indulging in alcohol during official hours and cautioned officials against using government vehicles for bar visits.

Downpour dilemma

Desperate for rainfall, farmers gaze heavenward, offering fervent prayers as the monsoon disappoints in its initial month. In a previous attempt, farmers near Mysuru resorted to staging a frog wedding, but alas, it yielded no positive results. Determined not to lose hope, farmers from Belagavi took an unconventional approach.

They conducted a wedding ceremony between two donkeys, hoping it would persuade the rain gods to bless their lands. Meanwhile, residents of Bidar went a step further, arranging a symbolic wedding between dolls, desperately clinging to the belief that this unusual tactic might just work.

Missing flights

During a recent discussion, Bengaluru development minister DK Shivakumar said that Bengaluru's traffic, in all its glory, is often compared to traffic in other cities. "It's quite fascinating how some individuals have claimed that Mumbai's traffic is worse, and astonishingly, they even dare to mention missing flights there. But alas, these are never reported. Interestingly enough, I too have experienced missing flights in Delhi, yet it appears to be a story that goes unnoticed by the media there. However, in Bengaluru, the media plays a very proactive role, highlighting the captivating tales of people missing flights," he said.

– Sridhar Vivan

Pay more for parking space on Brigade Road

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in place earlier had a two-hour parking restriction. "This policy gave the public more opportunity to make use of the parking space and shop easily.

For example, people going to their offices in Church Street would park their vehicles in the morning and pick them up only at night. This was completely avoided," he said. The system in place currently does not follow such a policy. Along with this, customers are being handed out tickets by hand by stationed workers. "It was India's first on-street Parking Information System (PIS). The association spent Rs 48 lakh for it to be installed during the development stages of Bengaluru and we have not even recovered the investment. It is more a thing of convenience and discipline for us," he said, alleging that the hike has been made to gain profits.

Riya, a frequent user of Brigade Road, said that such a system will benefit only the rich. "The upper class can choose to park their vehicles in these parking spaces and even let it be there overnight as they can afford the fare. However, it will be the middle class who are affected by the hike. There are not many alternative parking spaces in the area either," she said.

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I, VIKESH RAJ CHILLALA S/O, Machindra Nath Chillale R/o 6, Rainbow Layout, Munnekolala, Bangalore 560037 have changed my name to VIKESH RAJ CHILALE for all purposes. Affidavit dt. 30/06/2023, Sworn before notary S.S Indira, Bangalore.

I Swathi M S/O, Maniram Sharma R/o Site No.13 Kadusonnappanahalli Village, Hennur Bagalur Main Road, Opp To Bande Hosur Bus Stop Bengaluru 562149 have changed my name to Swathi Sharma

I, Brahmaji Mutthoju R/o G 10, B-block, Olive Apartments, Seetharampalya, Hoodi, Bengaluru 560048 have changed my minor daughter's name from Zahra Brahmaji Mutthoju to Zahra Mutthoju

I Amruth S/O, Sudarsan Imbrangattayil Madhavan R/o D.108 , Sn Nagar, Kommasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Sarjapura, Bengaluru -562125 have changed my name to Amruth Imbrangattayil Sudarsan for all purposes

I Ilavarasan Magendran S/O, Mahendran R/o No. 72, 1st Cross Nagayyana Palya Sathya Nagar Bangalore North Bangalore - 560033 have changed my name to Ilavarasan Mahendran

I Anup Kumar Mandia Mandia S/O, Jagdish Prasad R/o #20, 3rd Floor, 2nd House, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, Hanumappa Layout, Allalasandra, G.K.V.K. Post, Bangalore-560065 have changed my name to Anup Kumar Mandia for all purposes

I Rijawana Brahmaji Mutthoju W/O, Brahmaji Mutthoju R/o G 10, B-block, Olive Apartments, Seetharampalya, Hoodi, Bengaluru 560048 have changed my name to Rijawana Nabisaheb Pulujakar

I Brahmaji Laxman Mutthoju S/O, Laxmana Chary Mutthoju R/o G 10, B-block, Olive Apartments, Seetharampalya, Hoodi, Bengaluru 560048 have changed my name to Brahmaji Mutthoju for all purposes.

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HEALTH TIP: Wet hair is more prone to breakage, so handle it with care; avoid vigorous rubbing with a towel

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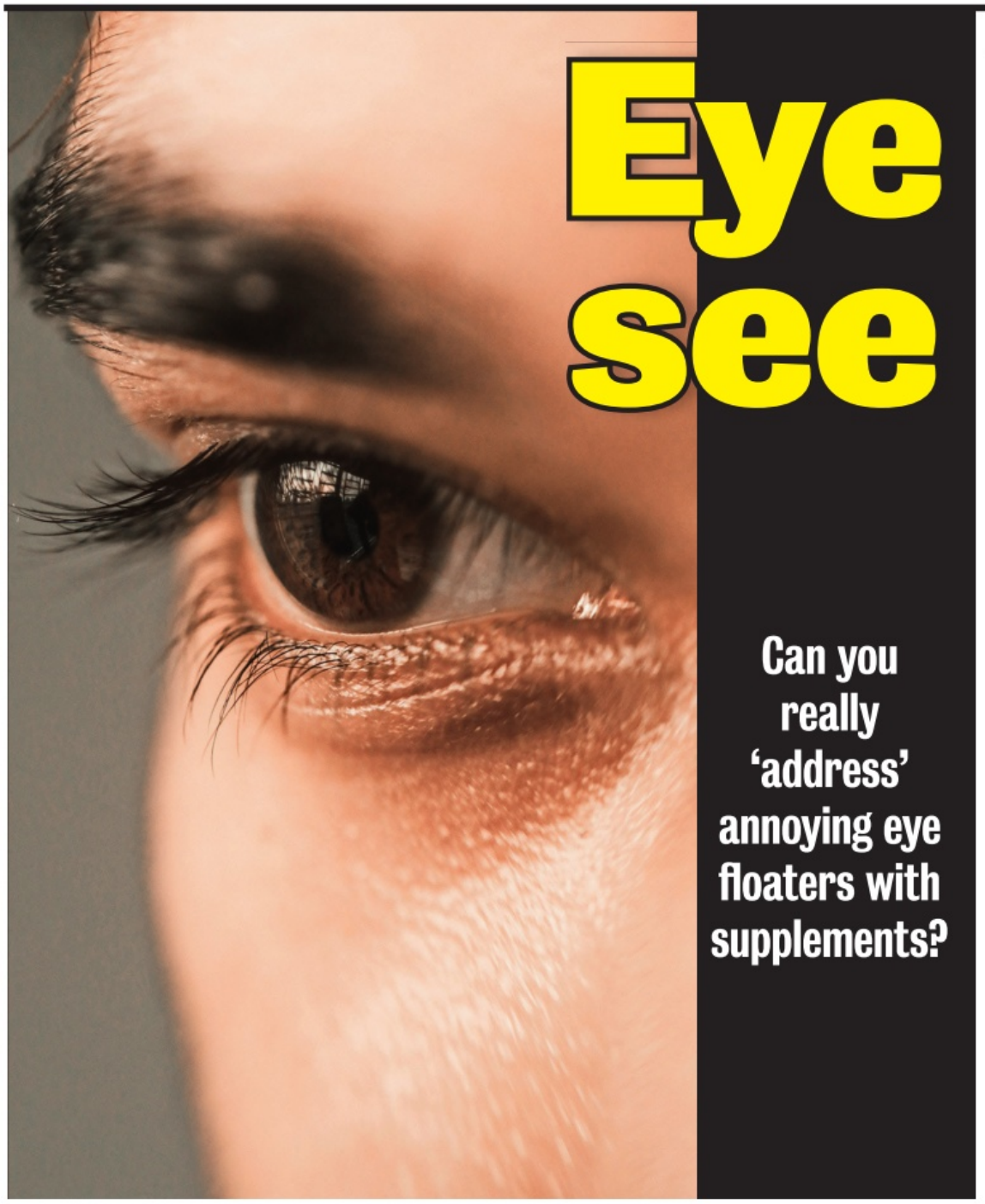


Eye see

Can you really 'address' annoying eye floaters with supplements?

If you look up at the sky on a clear day, you might notice little cobweb-like structures drifting across your field of vision. They are known as floaters or, more formally, muscae volitantes – Latin for flying flies.

Like regular flies, muscae volitantes are rather pesky, so it's not surprising that people want to banish them. A recent article in the Mirror, Eye floaters: What causes them and how to get rid of hem naturally, claims to have a solution.

Sarah Brewer, a GP, is quoted in the article as saying that a supplement called Clearer, made by Theia Bio, is "a natural but effective solution to address annoying floaters". Despite the promise in the headline, Dr Brewer does not talk about getting rid of floaters.

The Theia Bio website uses more precise language. It says: "Clearer contains a blend of antioxidants and antiglycation micronutrients that has been scientifically proven to reduce eye floater size and visual discomfort in around 70% of test subjects over six months."

Before we look at the feasibility of a supplement to "address" annoying floaters or reduce their size, let's look at what floaters are and why they occur.

The main reason floaters occur is age. With age, the vitreous – a clear, gel-like substance inside the eye – starts to thicken and shrink. Vitreous consists mostly of water, collagens and an acid called hyaluronan. Over time, the vitreous degenerates slightly and little clumps of collagen begin to form. Floaters are the shadows these clumps cast on the retina.

With age, it's normal for the vitreous to pull away from the back of the eye, a process called posterior vitreous detachment, and this causes more floaters.

Is it possible that vitamin supplements could affect the clumps and strands of collagen, to improve the vitreous? In 2022, researchers in Taiwan reported that taking high-dose mixed fruit enzyme supplements could reduce floaters, but it's not clear how they measured the number of floaters, so it is difficult to judge this study properly without more information.

> **The main reason floaters occur is age. With age, the vitreous – a clear, gel-like substance inside the eye – starts to thicken and shrink**

Theia Bio, the company that Dr Brewer was speaking in partnership with, shares a link to a study on its website as scientific proof that the Clearer supplement can "reduce eye floater size and visual discomfort". But floaters are tricky to measure because the vitreous is mobile. Every time you move your eyes, the vitreous opacities (the floating objects in the vitreous) move, and the floaters - the shadows the vitreous opacities cast - move too.

The vitreous clumps are 3D, not 2D, so catching them from different angles affects the measure you take and floaters appear bigger when they're closer to the front of your eye. The reduction in opacity size in the study is based on just 26 people who took the formulation, and opacity sizes were reported in a 2D measure (cm^2).

This small trial does not convince me that floater size can be reduced with this dietary supplement.

What about other solutions?

There are a couple of medical ways to get rid of floaters. The most accepted is a procedure called vitrectomy, which surgically removes the vitreous. But this surgery poses risks to a person's vision far more significant than the floaters themselves.

Zapping floaters with a laser (known as a YAG laser) is another option, but not all experts agree that this is safe. Worryingly, several private companies offer this treatment as a good solution, even though there are reports of damage to various eye structures and glaucoma as a result.

Other "solutions" suggested online include intermittent fasting, temple massage and acupressure, as well as eye exercises. But there is no credible evidence for these.

There is some evidence that lifestyle factors can accelerate or decelerate ageing in the eye more generally, which might affect the age you first notice floaters, or how large or troublesome they are. For example, eating lots of vegetables rich in carotenoids (spinach, broccoli, watermelon, pink grapefruit) and fatty fish containing omega-3, may help people at risk of age-related macular degeneration.

Emerging evidence also suggests that excessive exposure to blue light from mobile phones, tablet computers and LCD screens might also accelerate age-related eye changes. But while slowing ageing in the eye would be great, it's not proof that it will stop people from getting floaters.

So what should you do if you find yourself troubled by floaters? Mostly, the best thing to do is ignore them. Over time, the brain adapts and we notice them much less.

You're more likely to get floaters if you are shortsighted, had cataract surgery, or if you've had eye inflammation (swelling). And you might have more floaters if you have diabetes, so glucose and diabetic control are important.

Occasionally, floaters can be signs of a serious condition. If you suddenly notice a lot of new floaters or flashes, or if a shadow or grey curtain comes down over your vision, this could indicate a retinal tear needing urgent surgery.

The verdict

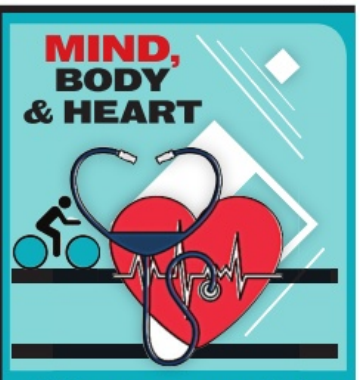
Can supplements "address" collagen clumps in the vitreous? There is little evidence to support this at present.

Can supplements and lifestyle changes slow the ageing process in the eye, delaying the onset of these age-related floaters? Possibly.

Dr Brewer makes excellent recommendations about nutritious food, hydration and sleep – all great ways to maintain your health. It's doubtful that it will have a direct impact on floaters, but it's great health advice generally and might delay the ageing processes in the eye by which they arrive.

Kawa Wong, the founder of Theia Bio, said that his company "does not promise a cure for eye floaters; rather, it offers the best nutritional support for eye floater patients based on available scientific evidence".

-By Charlotte Codina, Lecturer, University of Sheffield (The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Risk of high BMI

Risk of rheumatic disorders

A higher BMI raises the risk of five major rheumatic disorders, according to a recent Uppsala University study: rheumatism, osteoarthritis, gout, psoriatic arthritis, and inflammatory spondylitis. Researchers also discovered that BMI was a greater risk factor for gout and psoriatic arthritis in women than in males. Study also noted the effect of BMI on the risk of developing osteoarthritis was lower in post-menopausal women compared to women of childbearing age.

What do result of the study show?

"The results of the study provide greater understanding of the risks behind rheumatic disease and show that a lower body weight can be used as an intervention to reduce the risk of suffering from rheumatic disease," explains Weronica Ek, researcher.

What is rheumatic disease?

Most rheumatic diseases are driven by inflammation in the body and mainly affect joints, muscles and bones, but vital organs and vessels can also be affected.

Symptoms of rheumatic disease

Symptoms of rheumatic disease can include fatigue, swelling and pain in the joints, stiffness and reduced movement function.

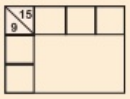
How is latest study different from previous?

Previous studies have found a connection between rheumatic diseases and a high BMI (a kind of 'corrected' body weight that also takes the individual's height into account). However, it has not been fully investigated whether this connection is due to a high BMI actually causing rheumatic disease rather than patients suffering from rheumatic disease simply having a higher BMI on average due to other, unknown reasons. This is a common problem in epidemiological studies based on observational data.

—ANI

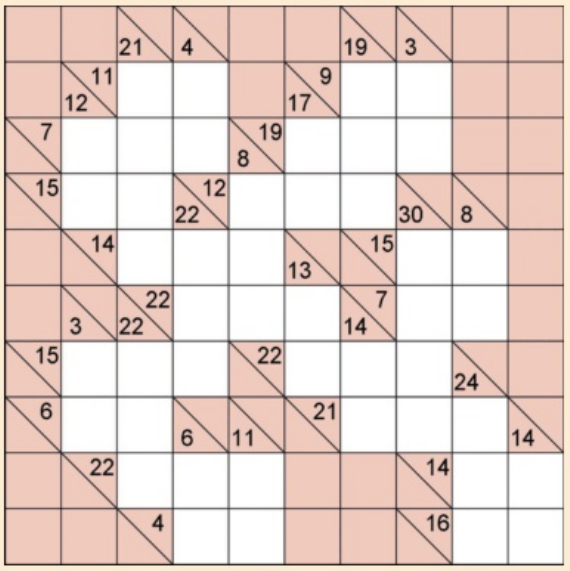
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

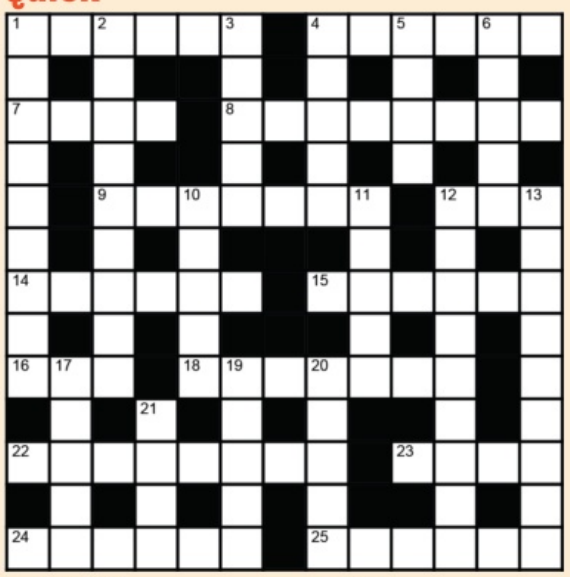


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Having many trees? (6)
4 Means of approach (6)
7 From a distance (4)
8 Smokers' accessories (8)
9 Temple town in Uttara Kannada (7)
12 Child's bed (3)
14 Discourages (6)
15 Representatives (6)
16 Woodland deity (3)
18 Edible mollusc (7)
22 The Karate sticks? (8)
23 Change of Govt. : coup d'____ (4)
24 Off track (6)
25 Canopied seat on an elephant's back (6)

DOWN

1 Finished off the matter? (7,2)
2 Large ape (5-4)
3 Bangladesh capital (5)
4 Deathly pale (5)
5 Milk by-product (4)
6 Authorization (3-2)
10 Destiny, fate (5)
11 English as a prefix (5)
12 Joined, linked or united (9)
13 The five day cricket affair? (4,5)
17 Touches; leans on or leans against (5)
19 Like some eyes? (5)
20 Express mirth (5)
21 Skin blemish (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: J EQUALS Y

JBE'PS LBZ ZB GB JBEX BDV LXBDQVL, VB KMZZSX UBD ZMHH JBEX LXMVGWMZUSX DMO.

Linemaro

Come live in my heart and pay no rent

Mindchow

It is not the man who has too little, but one who craves more, that is poor

Joke of the day

The easiest time to add insult to injury is when you're signing somebody's cast

Loop

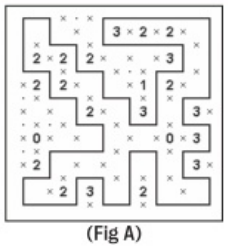
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

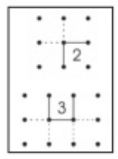
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

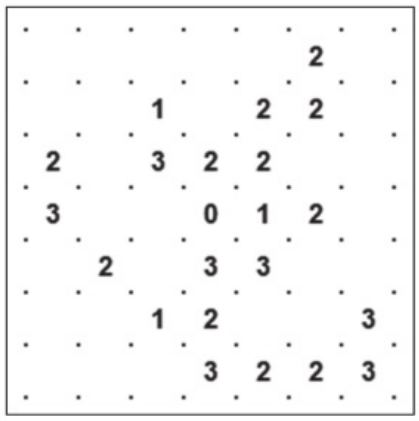
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



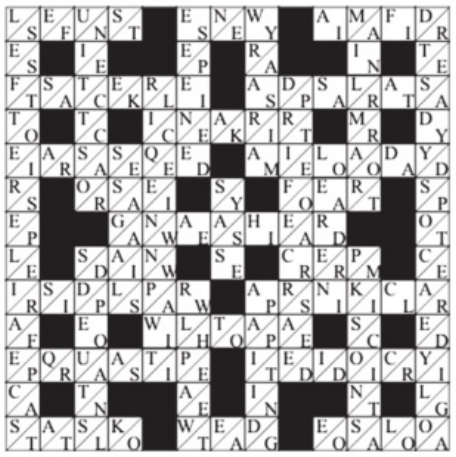
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1 F	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

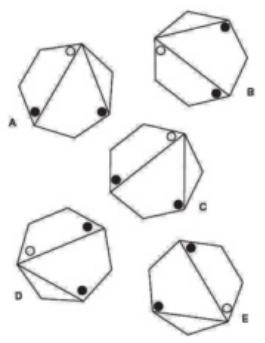
1 Fates; 6 Sues I;
7 Pia OK; 8 Inner;
9 De Ark

DOWN

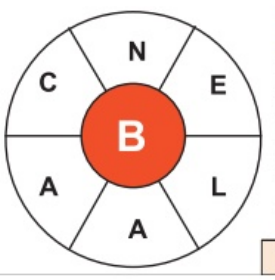
1 Fro id; 2 Reeks;
3 A Nasa; 4 Kit up;
5 Seen I

Mensapuzzle

Which is the odd one out?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

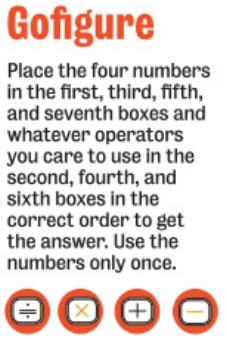
SudokuChallenge

1			7		2			5
	7	2				1	4	
9								7
		6	5	2	4	9		
	9						8	
		1	8	9	6	4		
6								1
	2	5				7	3	
8			9		3			4

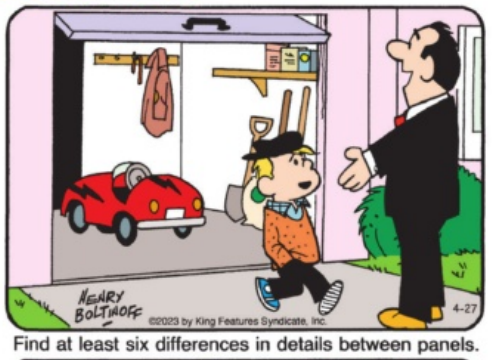
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

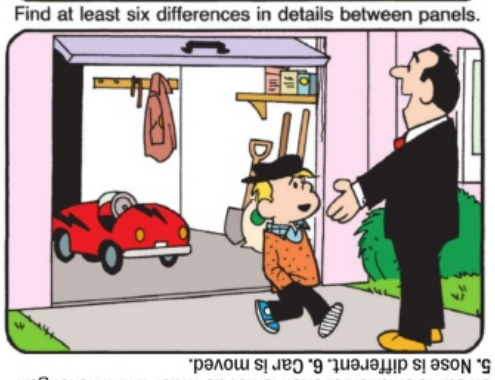
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



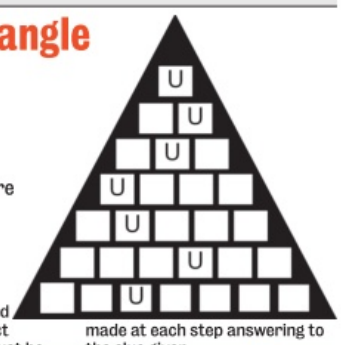
Differences: 1. Jacket on hook is reversed. 2. License plate on car is smaller. 3. Shelf is not as wide. 4. Arm is longer. 5. Nose is different. 6. Car is moved.

Riddler

On Monday and Tuesday it took Michael exactly the same time to get to work. Wednesday's journey took nine minutes less than that, four-fifths as long as Thursday's and Friday's journeys. If the average journey took 30 minutes, how long did Wednesday's journey take?

Alpha triangle

1 Universal, abbr.
2 Xi preceder
3 Fruit kernel
4 Fixed amount
5 Italian city
6 Three in one
7 Regular procedure



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

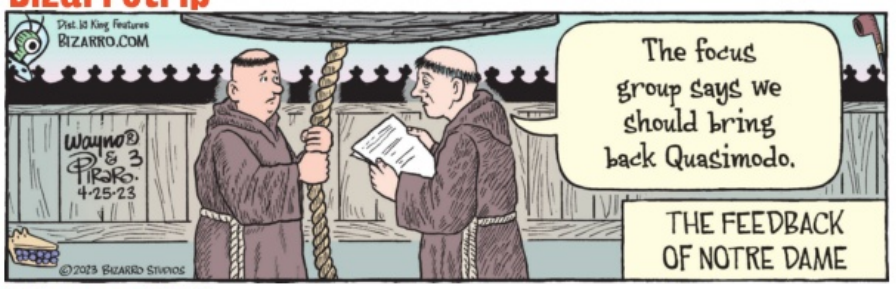
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

MY MEMORY IS GETTING TERRIBLE, MEDICINE MAN!
YOU'RE LUCKY! I'VE JUST DEVELOPED A PILL FOR THAT PROBLEM...TAKE TWO OF THESE DAILY
...OR IS THAT ONE TWICE A DAY?
MEL CASSON

Bizarrotrip


Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
Wayno & PIRRO 4-25-23
The focus group says we should bring back Quasimodo.
THE FEEDBACK OF NOTRE DAME
©2023 BIZARRO STUDIOS

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

KNOCK KNOCK
HE'S HERE!
HEART! GOOD TO MEET YOU! I BROUGHT YOU A GIFT!
OOH! OFF TO A GOOD START, IAN!
OH, COOL... THANKS.
Chippy-Chip
AGE 0-5
COLORING BOOK
KAT
MY MOM'S BOYFRIEND (???) GOT ME A CHIPPY CHIP COLORING BOOK.
+1 FOR KNOWING YOU LIKE CHIPPY CHIPS. -1 FOR GIVING YOU A BABY BOOK?
I GUESS HE'S BREAKING EVEN.

Crankshaft

I BROUGHT COPIES OF THE PAGES IN THE FIRST THREE BOOKS THAT YOU SIGNED FOR ME!
OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL
HOW THOUGHTFUL!
OHIOANA BOOK FESTIVAL
IT'S SO NICE TO MEET SOMEONE ELSE WHO'S TYPE 'DOUBLE A'!
Murder at the Book Club
BATTUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
4-21

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel dull and experience some health-related issues. A chronic disease may resurface, so it is advised to take care of yourself. Avoid rash driving and rushing in general. It is recommended to avoid conflicts with your business partner and refrain from making important business decisions. Postpone any investments in business or work. However, by late evening, things may start to come under control with the blessings from elders.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be blessed by destiny as your postponed projects may finally start. With the help of elders' blessings, messy situations can be brought under control, which will accelerate your projects. Disputes among family members are likely to be resolved, leading to increased domestic harmony. Your creativity will improve, especially in creating artifacts. You may also feel attracted to glamour.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is a good day as you are feeling enthusiastic. With good focus, you will perform well in business and work. Your boss may be supportive, and you may be given new responsibilities that can lead to a promotion. A visit to a spiritual place may be on the cards. However, it is advised to avoid arrogance in your love life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and your destiny is in your favor. Your postponed projects may finally begin, and with the help of elders' blessings, you can overcome any messy situations. This will boost your work speed. Resolving disputes among family members will bring domestic harmony, and your creativity will flourish in various fields such as artifacts, movies, and glamour.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, the moon is not in a favorable position for you. You may feel dull and experience health issues. There may be some losses during this period, so it is advised to avoid investing in risky assets. Your gains may turn into losses, and it's important to refrain from investing in worthless objects. Avoid getting involved in controversies as it may have negative consequences.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Love will be in the air in your personal life, and singles may find a suitable match. You will excel in your professional life, and your friends and subordinates will support you.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you will have confidence that will reflect in your work. You are in a winning position against opponents and enemies. Your focus on your goals will be strong, and your health will be good. In domestic life, try to avoid unnecessary arguments as they may affect your domestic harmony.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you will be happy due to an auspicious planetary combination which will bring positive energy and enhance your prestige among people. You may spend time studying intellectual subjects and plan for higher studies.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel negative vibrations around you, which can make you unhappy. It is advised to avoid investing in worthless assets. Friends and people around you may not be supportive, so don't expect too much help from them as it may make you nervous. It is recommended to make independent decisions today.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may find it challenging to present yourself logically, and you may feel dull and lacking in confidence. Trust your intuition when making investment decisions. People around you may not be cooperative in routine work, so be careful. Avoid eating unhealthy food to prevent stomach issues.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you are likely to be more excited due to the cooperation of your family and friends. You may plan to renovate your house or acquire some souvenir items to maintain your standard, which will increase your social status. Additionally, you may expect an increase in your fixed assets.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today is a good day in terms of financial gains. You may achieve positive results with less effort. Your losses may convert into profits with the help of your wisdom. Consider investing in intellectual assets and upgrading your skills through academic courses. It is also a favourable time to donate to charities and extend a helping hand to those in need. Students may excel in their studies.

KIDZONE

Yashashwini R Magaji, 11 Years, Bethesda School

Varsha G, 9 Years, VIBGYOR High School

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√(100) x √(√(1/16))
10 x √(1/4)
10 x 1/2
10/2
= 5

BULL'S EYE
table, BALANCE, bale, banal, bane, bean, cable

FAST FIVE

F	E	A	T	S
I	S	S	U	E
O	K	A	P	I
R	E	N	I	N
D	R	A	K	E

STRIKE OUT

T	A	S	K		T	A	G		O	S	L	O
C		T		A	N		T		G
E	Q	U	A	T	E		I	D	I	O	C	Y
F	O		I	H	O	P	E		C	D
R	I	P	S	A	W		A	R	N	I	C	A
E	S	A	W		E		R	E	P	E
P		G	N	A	S	H	E	D		T
R	A	I		S		F	A	R		S
E	R	A	S	E	D		M	E	L	O	D	Y
T		T		I	N	A	I	R		R	D
L	E	N	T		S	E	W		A	M	I	E
E		E		P		A		I			T
T	A	C	K	L	E		S	P	A	R	T	A
C		T		A	N		T		T		G

QUICK

W	O	O	D	E	D		A	C	C	E	S	S
R		R		H		S		U		A
P	G	O	K	A	R	N	A		C	O	T
P		N		K		E		D		S
A	F	A	R		A	S	H	T	R	A	Y	S
A		R		A		S		R		A		S
N	U	N	C	H	A	K	U		E	T	A	T
B		S		E		A		C		A
P	A	N		A	B	A	L	O	N	E		M
U		A		M		L		N		T
D	E	T	E	R	S		A	G	E	N	T	S
E		U		A		N		O		E
S	H	A	D	E		F	A	R		S
T		G	N	A	S		F	A	R		S
A	S	T	R	A	Y		H	O	W	D	O	A	H

MENSA PUZZLE
D: the others are all the same figure rotated.

RIDDLER
24 minutes

QUOTE UNCODE
You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your grandfather was.

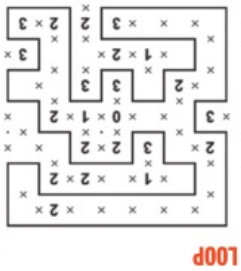
SUDOKU

1	4	3	7	8	2	6	9	5
5	7	2	6	3	9	1	4	8
9	6	8	4	1	5	3	2	7
7	8	6	5	2	4	9	1	3
2	9	4	3	7	1	5	8	6
3	5	1	8	9	6	4	7	2
6	3	9	2	4	7	8	5	1
4	2	5	9	6	8	7	3	9
8	1	7	9	5	3	2	6	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Nu, Nut, Unit, Turin, Trine, Routine.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 3 + 4 + 7 = 21
Medium
8 x 6 + 6 – 9 = 45
Hard
2 + 8 – 9 x 2 = 2

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # Zoe's next
Zoe Saldana to play illegal immigrant in political-thriller 'The Absence of Eden' directed by her husband Marco Perego

Hot pink alert

With Margot Robbie painting the world pink in her Barbie avatar, we take a look at B-Town celebs who have made the colour their own

It's not just Hollywood that's been hit with Barbie fever, Bollywood has been quick to take to the much awaited film too. It's Barbie energy everywhere, and top celebrities have chosen to wear pink in everything, We pick a few Barbiecore looks of our favourite celebs:

Katrina Kaif

Katrina Kaif in a blush pink Alex Perry gown featuring an over the shoulder pleated sleeve f surely as Barbie as they come.

Ananya Panday

Ananya Panday appeared as her Barbie alter ego in a stunning pink bodycon dress. Pink nail and complimentary makeup were her style.

Sara Ali Khan

Sara Ali Khan, shows off her fit figure in a one-shoulder Jacquemus design featuring a daring thigh-high slit.

Kriti Sanon

In a sizzling hot pink dress that caught everyone's eyes, Kriti Sanon made it clear she's India's answer to Barbie. The body-hugging, one-shoulder beauty was embellished with cascading ruffles that swirled down its length, and a pair of light pink heels.

Alia Bhatt

Alia Bhatt wears a blush pink dress which features a corset-style bodice and a flowing, semi-sheer pink chiffon trail.

Kiara Advani

Here comes the hot stepper as Kiara Advani stuns in a hot pink jumpsuit by Manish Malhotra, worn with silver sequin boots.

Janhvi Kapoor

Our hearts skipped a beat when Janhvi Kapoor donned a pink sequinned halter dress that accentuated her curves.

IANS

Not an easy task

Simi Garewal has shared a throwback BTS video from her interview with Priyanka Chopra from 2006. The video shows the actress talking about what it feels like to be a girl.

In the video, Priyanka's stylist interrupts the conversation to fix her hair while they are rolling. We can hear Priyanka telling Simi, "So difficult being a girl. I wish I was a guy sometimes. Real, nothing, no stress. Just throw on a pair of jeans and a tee and just come." Simi responds saying, "These days guys are doing a lot." Then Priyanka adds, "They can never do as much as we have to do. We have to sit so stiff that one curl doesn't go out of place."

Priyanka humorously expresses the challenges of being a girl and the expectations placed on their appearance. Despite the interruption, the interview continues with Priyanka discussing a topic close to her heart. **ETimes**

Record-breaker Ri

Rihanna broke the Spotify record recently by becoming the first female singer to have 10 songs crossing the mark of one billion streams.

Having released her last album 'Anti' in 2016, the singer captioned a celebratory post on Instagram: "Bad Gal billi … / wit no new album… / lemme talk my s***."

In British Vogue's March issue, Rihanna opened up about the pressure she feels to release new music after her "most brilliant" and "most cohesive album" 'Anti'.

She said, quoted by 'People' magazine,'"There's this pressure that I put on myself. That if it's not better than that then it is not even worth it. It is toxic. It's not the right way to look at music because music is an outlet and a space to create, and you can create whatever. It doesn't have to even be on any scale. It just has to be something that feels good. It could just be a song that I like. It literally could be that simple".

She continued, "So I realized that if I keep waiting until this feels right and perfect and better, maybe it's

going to keep taking forever and maybe it'll never come out and no, I'm not down to that. So I want to play. And by play, I mean I have my ideas in my head, but I can't say them out loud yet.I want it to be this year," she said, adding that "it'd be ridiculous if it's not".

The singer released her first track in nearly seven years in October 2022. Titled 'Lift Me Up', the track is featured in the MCU film 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' soundtrack, serving as a heartfelt tribute to the late 'Black Panther' actor Chadwick Boseman. **–IANS**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

New language

Ragini Dwivedi, aka Tuppada Hudugi, has just finished shooting for bilingual movie Sheela. Ragini, who found it tough to speak or understand Malayalam at the beginning of film shoot, is now successfully able to speak Malayalam.

"Malayalam is a tough language to speak. I could not say the dialogues properly at the beginning. However, by the time the shoot was wrapped, I could speak Malayalam," says Ragini.

Ragini said that a big part of the film was shot at a 50-year-old tea estate for one month. "I play the lead that has many shades, including emotion, sentiment, and violence. I play a very intense character. It is a journey between the two states. The movie was in two languages – Malayalam and Kannada. We were shooting in December so I spent New Year's Eve there," Ragini says. She says the movie is a suspense thriller about the problems an affluent woman faces. "The movie is based on many real life incidents," she said.

Comedy horror

After a gap of more than a decade, actor Komal and choreographer-cum-director Murali have joined hands to come out with a sequel to their previous movie Namo Bhootatma released in 2014. Namo Bhootatma 2 is ready for release and its trailer was released recently. Action Prince Dhruva Sarja was the chief guest at the function.

Dhruva Sarja said he watched all the movies of Komal. "The teaser is very good. It is tough to watch horror movies but this movie is a mix of horror and comedy. Murali master has done an excellent job. He is known for composing beautiful choreography," said Dhruva. Komal said Namo Bhootatma became a big success at the box office despite other language movies being released at the same time. "I asked Murali to ensure comedy and horror in the film so that children can also watch it," he said.